

May 27, 2008

Hi, Dave. This message is in response to your E-mail message of May 2, sent to the Envision San Jose 2040 Task Force Co-Chairs. Planning staff met with the Co-Chairs and identified methods to respond to the Task Force's requests for more in depth information and discussions on the topics most relevant to our process to update the General Plan. These include: 1) moving directly into the critical work of preparing for development of the Land Use Alternatives, 2) providing a more specific Task Force discussion guide, and 3) identifying key conclusions the Task Force reaches at each meeting that contribute directly to the next steps in the process. For example, the May 27 meeting packet contains information critical to the process of developing the land use alternatives, starting with the discussion of employment and population projections.

The original target of identifying a preferred alternative by August, 2008 is no longer achievable. Staff is developing a revised work program for presentation to the Task Force. At the May 27 meeting we will be presenting the schedule for the next several months.

It is important to clarify the roles of staff and the Task Force regarding the development of the updated General Plan. As with all City projects incorporating a citizens advisory group, committee or task force, it is the responsibility of the City professional staff to prepare information and content for use by the Task Force in the collaborative process with staff and the community to develop the updated General Plan for recommendation to the City Council. The Task Force is responsible for actively discussing and evaluating the information, providing feedback and guidance to staff in the development the Plan and, ultimately, making a recommendation to the City Council.

Regarding the use of subcommittees, the City Council stated at the initiation of the Update process that separate discussions by subcommittees would inhibit the full participation of all Task Force members in the complex inter-related issues associated with the Update. It is important that the Task Force work together on this effort.

We wholeheartedly agree with your conclusion that it is time to get "to the heart" of the General Plan Update process. We are confident that we are beginning that effort at the May meeting and with the discussions in the upcoming months.

Should you have any questions, please give me a call at 535-7876.

Stan Ketchum